changes in West Bengal have since been cleared by Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) As per draft 8th Plan of the Telecom Department, modernisation and upgradation of Telecom network will be done through

— replacement of life expired and worn-out exchanges;

replacement of life expired and unserviceable transmission systems by digital systems;

replaemcent of all small Electro-mechanica l exchanges (upto 100 lines) by electronic exchanges;

— replacement of all manual exchanges by automatic exchanges by March, 1994.

West Bengal telecom network is also covered by these proposals, 83 Electro-mechanical exchanges have been converted into electronic exchanges uptil now. During 1991-92 it is planned to modernise telephone exchanges by way of replacing 90 more telephone exchanges by electronic ones.

Implementation of New Education Policy

183. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DE- to state the progress make in the implementation of New Education policy till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT): (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): The National Policy on Education (NPE) was adopted by the Parliament in 1986. Following the NPE a large number of important centrally sponsored programmes were launched. These include

(i) Operation Blackboard

(ii) Non-formal education for drop-outs, working children and girls who cannot attend school owing to obligations at home

(iii) Reorganisation and restructuring of teacher education, including establishment of District Institutes of Education & Training, and giving statutory status to National Council of Teacher Education

(iv) Vocationalisation of Secondary Education

(v) Strengthening and consolidation of Higher Education, with restoration of academic calendar in universities/colleges, autonomous colleges, establishment of curriculum development centres and academic staff colleges, and accountability of the teachers

(vi) Establishment of All India Council of Technical Education as a statutory body

(vii) Modernisation of Technical Education

Details of implementation of these and other programmes are included in the Annual Reports of the Department for the years since the formulation of NPE, which were laid on the Table of the House.

Formation of water grids

184. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately been considering the question of linking different rivers and forming grids;